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SANTA CLARA COUNTY SATELLITE
TEL (408) 847-6101

California State Senate

SENATOR
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE #1
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
JOINT STATE OF CALIFORNIA
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON BUDGET
JUDICIARY
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
& RETIREMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
RULES
JOINT LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE ON RULES

FILED

03/29/22
04:59 PM

A2004019

Mr. Guy Preston
Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

October 22, 2021

Re: Support for North Coast Rail Trail Project- Modification to Approved CPUC Rail Crossing Application

Dear Mr. Preston:

As the representative of California's 17th State Senate District, the former Santa Cruz City Mayor, and a life-long Santa Cruz resident, I am writing in unwavering support for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC's) request to modify the **North Coast Rail Trail Project- California Public Utilities Commission Application** (application #20-04-019), that was approved in October 2020. The proposed modification will relocate the planned crossing where the North Coast Rail Trail traverses from the inland to the coastal side of the rail tracks near Wilder Ranch by 370 feet to the southeast of its previously approved location (from Mile Post 24.19 to Mile Post 24.11).

Approval of this modification would directly connect the North Coast Rail Trail to the State Parks trail system on the coastal bluffs and channelize North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system users to the same crossing location.

The North Coast Rail Trail Project, including this request to modify the location where the multi-use trail crosses the rail tracks, continues to achieve multiple federal, state, and local goals by:

- Providing Americans with Disabilities Act access to the remote and rugged portions of public land on the California Coast along the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary;
- Enhancing safety for bicyclists and pedestrians by providing a new dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facility parallel to Highway 1;

- Designating a limited number of safe, formal crossings of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line only at necessary locations to connect parking lots to the multi-use trail and beaches and restrict access at numerous informal crossings;

- Provide a sustainable and non-greenhouse gas emitting option for traveling to some of the most stunning beaches and coastal hills in the nation;

- Preserving rail infrastructure and allowing for future excursion and freight rail on this section of the RTC owned and Progressive Rail operated Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, which is parallel to the multi-use trail; and,

- Creating an asset for recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor services.

I am pleased to offer my support for this valuable project and encourage approval of the RTC's North Coast Rail Trail Project CPUC request to modify the previously approved rail crossing application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Laird".

JOHN LAIRD

Senator 17th District

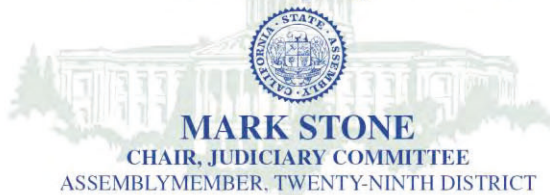
COMMITTEES

BANKING AND FINANCE
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON
PUBLIC SAFETY
HUMAN SERVICES
NATURAL RESOURCES

SELECT COMMITTEES

CHAIR, COASTAL PROTECTION AND
ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES
VICE CHAIR, JOINT COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Assembly California Legislature

**STATE CAPITOL**

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(831) 649-2832
FAX (831) 649-2935

October 21, 2021

Guy Preston, Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Support for North Coast Rail Trail Project- Modification to Approved CPUC Rail Crossing Application

Dear Mr. Preston:

I am writing to express my support for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC's) request to modify the North Coast Rail Trail Project – California Public Utilities Commission Application 20-04-019 approved in October 2020 to relocate the planned, but not yet constructed, crossing where the North Coast Rail Trail crosses from the inland to the coastal side of the rail tracks near Wilder Ranch by 370ft to the southeast of its previously approved location (from Mile Post 24.19 to Mile Post 24.11).

Approval of this modification would provide a direct connection between the North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system on the coastal bluffs and channelize North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system users to the same crossing location.

The North Coast Rail Trail Project, including this request to modify the location where the multi-use trail crosses the rail tracks, continues to achieve multiple federal, state and local goals by way of:

- providing American with Disabilities Act access to the remote and rugged portions of public land on the California Coast along the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary;
- enhancing safety for bicyclists and pedestrians by providing a new dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facility parallel to Highway 1;
- enhancing safety by designating a limited number of formal crossings of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line only at necessary locations to connect parking lots to the multi-use trail and beaches and restrict access at numerous informal crossings;
- providing a sustainable and non- greenhouse gas emitting option for traveling to some of the most stunning beaches, and coastal hills in the nation;
- preserving rail infrastructure and allowing for future excursion and freight rail on this section of the RTC owned and Progressive Rail operated Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, which is parallel to the multi-use trail; and,
- creating an asset for recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor-services.

I am pleased to offer our support of this valuable project and encourage approval of the RTC's North Coast Rail Trail Project CPUC request to modify the previously approved rail crossing application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent than the last name "Stone".

Mark Stone
Assemblymember, 29th District



October 19, 2021

Mr. Guy Preston
Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: **Support for North Coast Rail Trail Project- Modification to Approved CPUC Rail Crossing Application**

Dear Mr. Preston:

The Coastal Conservancy expresses our support for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC's) request to modify the **North Coast Rail Trail Project – California Public Utilities Commission** Application 20-04-019 approved in October 2020 to relocate the planned, but not yet constructed, crossing where the North Coast Rail Trail crosses from the inland to the coastal side of the rail tracks near Wilder Ranch by 370ft to the southeast of its previously approved location (from Mile Post 24.19 to Mile Post 24.11).

Approval of this modification would provide a direct connection between the North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system on the coastal bluffs and channelize North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system users to the same crossing location.

The North Coast Rail Trail Project, including this request to modify the location where the multi-use trail crosses the rail tracks, continues to achieve multiple federal, state and local goals by creating an asset for recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor-services.

The Coastal Conservancy is pleased to offer our support of this valuable project and encourages approval of the RTC's North Coast Rail Trail Project CPUC request to modify the previously approved rail crossing application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Hill".

Hilary Hill
Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470



October 19, 2021

Mr. Guy Preston
Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: **Support for North Coast Rail Trail Project Modification to Approved CPUC Rail Crossing Application**

Dear Mr. Preston:

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) expresses our support for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC's) request to modify the **North Coast Rail Trail Project – California Public Utilities Commission** Application 20-04-019 approved in October 2020 to relocate the planned, but not yet constructed, crossing where the North Coast Rail Trail crosses from the inland to the coastal side of the rail tracks near Wilder Ranch by 370ft to the southeast of its previously approved location (from Mile Post 24.19 to Mile Post 24.11).

Approval of this modification would provide a direct connection between the North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system on the coastal bluffs and channelize North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system users to the same crossing location.

The North Coast Rail Trail Project, including this request to modify the location where the multi-use trail crosses the rail tracks, continues to achieve multiple federal, state and local goals by way of:

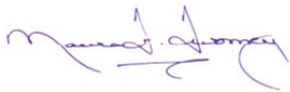
- providing American with Disabilities Act access to the remote and rugged portions of public land on the California Coast along the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary;
- enhancing safety for bicyclists and pedestrians by providing a new dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facility parallel to Highway 1;
- enhancing safety by designating a limited number of formal crossings of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line only at necessary locations to connect parking lots to the multi-use trail and beaches and restrict access at numerous informal crossings;
- providing a sustainable and non- greenhouse gas emitting option for traveling to some of the most stunning beaches, and coastal hills in the nation;

- preserving rail infrastructure and allowing for future excursion and freight rail on this section of the RTC owned and Progressive Rail operated Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, which is parallel to the multi-use trail; and,
- creating an asset for recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor-services.

The objectives of this project support the implementation of strategies found in AMBAG's 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) by improving equitable access to the transportation system, improving safety of the multimodal transportation network, reducing congestion, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

AMBAG is pleased to offer our support of this valuable project and encourages approval of the RTC's North Coast Rail Trail Project CPUC request to modify the previously approved rail crossing application. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Maura F. Twomey
Executive Director



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4070
(831) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2385 TDD (831) 454-2123

MATT MACHADO
DEPUTY CAO
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

October 15, 2021

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
ATTN: Guy Preston, Executive Director
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NORTH COAST RAIL TRAIL PROJECT –
MODIFICATION TO APPROVED CPUC RAIL CROSSING APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Preston,

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works expresses our support for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC's) request to modify the **North Coast Rail Trail Project – California Public Utilities Commission** Application 20-04-019 approved in October 2020 to relocate the planned, but not yet constructed, crossing where the North Coast Rail Trail crosses from the inland to the coastal side of the rail tracks near Wilder Ranch by 370ft to the southeast of its previously approved location (from Mile Post 24.19 to Mile Post 24.11).

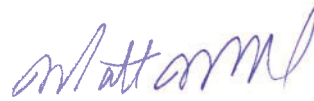
Approval of this modification would provide a direct connection between the North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system on the coastal bluffs and channelize North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system users to the same crossing location.

The North Coast Rail Trail Project, including this request to modify the location where the multi-use trail crosses the rail tracks, continues to achieve multiple federal, state and local goals by way of:

- providing American with Disabilities Act access to the remote and rugged portions of public land on the California Coast along the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary;
- enhancing safety for bicyclists and pedestrians by providing a new dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facility parallel to Highway 1;
- enhancing safety by designating a limited number of formal crossings of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line only at necessary locations to connect parking lots to the multi-use trail and beaches and restrict access at numerous informal crossings;
- providing a sustainable and non- greenhouse gas emitting option for traveling to some of the most stunning beaches, and coastal hills in the nation;
- preserving rail infrastructure and allowing for future excursion and freight rail on this section of the RTC owned and Progressive Rail operated Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, which is parallel to the multi-use trail; and,
- creating an asset for recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor-services.

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works is pleased to offer our support of this valuable project and encourages approval of the RTC's North Coast Rail Trail Project CPUC request to modify the previously approved rail crossing application.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Machado", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

MATT MACHADO
Deputy CAO
Director of Public Works

RO:dm



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www.landtrustsantacruz.org

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Joyce Shimizu

Executive Director
Sarah Newkirk

October 18, 2021

Mr. Guy Preston
Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: **Support for North Coast Rail Trail Project- Modification to
Approved CPUC Rail Crossing Application**

Dear Mr. Preston:

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County expresses its support for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC's) request to modify the **North Coast Rail Trail Project – California Public Utilities Commission** Application 20-04-019 approved in October 2020 to relocate the planned, but not yet constructed, crossing of the North Coast Rail Trail from the inland to the coastal side of the rail tracks. The modification seeks to move the crossing near Wilder Ranch by 370ft to the southeast of its previously approved location (from Mile Post 24.19 to Mile Post 24.11).

Approval of this modification would provide a direct connection between the North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system on the coastal bluffs and channelize North Coast Rail Trail and State Parks trail system users to the same crossing location.

The North Coast Rail Trail Project, including this request to modify the location where the multi-use trail crosses the rail tracks, continues to achieve multiple federal, state and local goals by way of:

- Providing American with Disabilities Act access to the remote and rugged portions of public land on the California Coast along the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary;
- Enhancing safety for bicyclists and pedestrians by providing a new dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facility parallel to Highway 1;
- Enhancing safety by designating a limited number of formal crossings of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line only at necessary locations to connect parking lots to the multi-use trail and beaches and restrict access at numerous informal crossings;
- Providing a sustainable and non- greenhouse gas emitting option for traveling to some of the most stunning beaches, and coastal hills in the nation;
- Preserving rail infrastructure and allowing for future excursion and freight rail on this section of the RTC owned and Progressive Rail operated Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, which is parallel to the multi-use trail; and,

- Creating an asset for recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor services.

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is pleased to offer our support of this valuable project and encourages approval of the RTC's North Coast Rail Trail Project CPUC request to modify the previously approved rail crossing application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Newkirk".

Sarah Newkirk
Executive Director